

THE WILSON BULLETIN.

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Living Birds.
Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Club.

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EDITORIAL.

This issue of the Bulletin will follow some of you to the field of your summer outing, and will find others in the midst of preparations for carrying out the plans for the summer. To such, and to all, we wish to offer this word of greeting, and this expression of the hope that the summer may be full of all best things. May one of the best things be some new information of the lives of some birds.

Studies of the birds in the summer are not usually pursued with the vigor which is given to studies of the migrations, because of the natural difficulties which summer conditions present. It is for that reason that we urge more persistent study on the part of all during this time. Did you ever notice that most of our bird literature is either strangely silent or at least very general in statements about the summer habits of most birds? The summer field is such an untrodden one that one cannot enter it without the assurance that new facts await him. Surprises quite as exciting as any which the migrations bring await the summer student of the birds. Plan your work for it this once.

The editor spent a delightful three days with Dr. W. E. D. Scott and his family of birds at the newly established Worthington Society for the Investigation of Bird Life, at Shawnee-on-Delaware, early in May. He never before saw our native birds so thoroughly contented and normal in their captivity that it was impossible to tell the captives from the wild birds which alighted upon the cages.

except that the captives seemed to be the better favored. If one were inclined to conscientious scruples against keeping wild birds in confinement the sight of this happy and contented family would certainly sweep the scruples away. We feel a lasting gratitude to Mr. Worthington for his interest and liberality in making this venture possible, and we heartily congratulate Dr. Scott upon the beginning of a realization of the fruition of a life given to a greatly needed work such as he has undertaken. May his work prosper and his days be multiplied to carry forward this work.

Carefully prepared lists of summer birds from regions not already fully covered by published lists, are solicited. Faunal studies of this sort will be worth publishing until the country is fully covered, or until we have learned everything there is to learn about distribution. Along with any list there should go such notes relating to life histories as can be learned, particularly as to the close of the season of song, and exact dates of nesting. Copious notes made while one is working in the field with the birds are valuable assets. Often what seem to be purposeless notes at the time they are made later prove to be the key to the solution of some vexed question. The best memory may prove fickle.

Before the next number of the Bulletin goes to press the southward migrations will have begun. How much do we really know about when the southward movement begins in our own locality, or where we spend the summer? Isn't it worth while to begin to learn about it? Here on Lake Erie some of the sandpipers which nest about Hudson's Bay, supposably, are to be found on the sandy shores and in the mud flats early in July, and some of the warblers are evidently moving southward early in August. On the other hand, some birds seem to leave for the south before they actually do.

SOME NOTEWORTHY LORAIN COUNTY RECORDS FOR 1906.

A solitary White-throated Sparrow was found wintering in the gorge of Vermilion river near Brownhelm Mills, on January 1. The bird was clearly in good physical condition. This is the first recorded instance of the wintering of this species.

Hoyt's Horned Lark was again found, in company with Prairie Horned Larks, four individuals on February 22. The difference of coloration and size was marked. These four inclined to separate themselves from the others and grouped together.